

\*When you read any of my works, you will need to have read *The Dictator's Handbook* by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith to understand the messages that follow. Also, a reminder that the definition of youth used here is people under the age of majority. In the US, that's people ages 0-17.

\*You might also want to read *The 48 Laws of Power*, by Robert Greene; *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion*, by Robert Cialdini; *Our Masters' Voices: The Language and Body-language of Politics*, by Max Atkinson; and *Power: Why Some People Have It and Others Don't*, by Jeffrey Pfeffer. These books will help you gain a deeper understanding of youth liberation and how parents oppress their kids. These books will also be instrumental in helping you come up with strategies to avoid getting hurt by your parents, band together against the school system, and organize and protest safely and effectively.

## Drug Dependency

One thing that parents do to abuse their children is get them hooked on addictive drugs so that they cannot leave. While this is less common in the developed world than property slavery and labor slavery (compulsory schooling), it is definitely worth talking about. Youth liberation is an international movement, and all kids from all countries matter.

When a parent gets a kid hooked on a drug and then acts as their only dealer, it creates a dependency that cannot be overcome even through the most thorough education on youth liberation. This is because drugs are a physical dependency, not a psychological one.

Once you become their drug dependent, you can be easily coerced into doing things you don't want to do. The only way to regain your agency will be to break free of the drug, which is very hard to do. Drug dependents can and often are forced to commit crimes, hurt others, and perform sexual acts that they do not want to do.

We do not offer methods for rehab, but simply warn those who have not yet been hooked on a recreational drug to turn down any attempts by your parents to get you to try one. Whether your parent introduces you to alcohol, nicotine, cocaine, crack, meth, marijuana, or prescription pills, once they become your dealer, you are under their control. You were already their slave, as legally codified human property, but now you are also physically dependent upon them in a way that is hard to break even when you become an adult. Never accept off-label and/or recreational drugs from your parents.

# Trustwashing

One of the ways parent-slavers get youth to participate in their own oppression is through trustwashing. There are several definitions of trustwashing, and we will discuss the first one in this issue of the zine. Trustwashing is “the deliberate rewriting of narratives to make people with power seem trustworthy and to trick a kid into inaction.” We provide three examples of trustwashing below.

In the first case, a kid is very hungry for dinner. It is only early afternoon, but there is plenty of food in the house. The parents refuse to let the kid eat until dinner. The parents say, “You can’t eat right now; you would spoil your dinner. Trust me; would I ever let you starve?” This is trustwashing, because the kid is clearly very hungry, and the parents are acting cruelly by making their kid go hungry when there is plenty of food. The correct action for the kid would be to sneak the food from the pantry anyway, as nutrition is far more important than whatever power trip the parents are currently on.

In the second case, a kid comes to their homeroom teacher about someone bullying them. The bullying goes on in homeroom, in clear view of the teacher. The teacher says to the student, “Trust me, I will handle this. Don’t try to pick a fight with them, or I’ll have to write you both up for fighting. I won’t let them hurt you; you just have to trust the process.” The teacher obviously has not done anything so far, even though they know the bullying is going on. The teacher has obviously let the bully hurt the kid and is now threatening to punish the kid if she righteously stands up for herself. The teacher is not trustworthy, as their past actions have told more than their words could ever say. The correct action would either be to confront the bully personally, find a group of bullying victims and confront the bully using superior numbers, or find somewhere else to be while homeroom is going on.

In the third case, a mother beats the daylights out of her kid, and the dad says, “It was for your own good; she’s your mother! She’d never do anything to hurt you; just behave and don’t talk back to her. She’s trying to teach you a lesson; you should pay attention and learn from your mistakes.” The dad trustwashes the kid by reframing the narrative to make the kid untrustworthy and the mother trustworthy. The act of beating the child is reframed as an action that shows how trustworthy and devoted the mother is. In this way, the mother, a person with legal power over the kid who should never be trusted, is reframed as being very trustworthy. The correct action would be to wear multiple sets of clothes when in the house to reduce the damage done by the beatings, to avoid the mother at all costs and never initiate conversation, to wait until everyone has gone to sleep and then go sleep in a different place in the house every night so that she doesn’t find you and beat you awake, and to spend as much time out of the house as possible.

Trustwashing is extremely dangerous for youth because it has the potential to turn powerful, malicious adults into trustworthy, harmless individuals at the exact moment when suspicion and fear are most needed. Trustwashing works primarily because people don't like to be afraid and don't like to be suspicious; acting in a way that disregards the words of a powerful person can be uncomfortable. This means that as long as they are presented with a narrative that tells them they don't need to be afraid and that authority is on their side and will handle everything, people can easily be trustwashed into believing complete lies. Trustwashed people are unlikely to act because they believe that authority figures will solve all their problems. Methods for breaking free of trustwashing are the same as the methods used to break free of obedience training, a practice that is discussed in the next section.

## Obedience Training

One of the lesser-known facts about modern parent-slavers is that forcing their kids to obey forces their kids to trust them. The fact is that obedience generates trust, maybe even on a biological level. The more any person is forced to obey, the more they trust the person coercing them. We call this forced obedience "obedience training." Months and years of obedience training can create trust so strong that even hinting that the coercer is untrustworthy provokes a hostile response. When combined with trustwashing, even the smallest acts of obedience can create undeserved trust in a youth. This is why parent-slavers repeatedly nag, force, or trick their kids to obey; the more they obey, the more they'll trust their parents, no matter how trustworthy their parents actually are. This is especially true of forced schooling. As the child is forced to obey, over the months and years they begin to trust the school teachers more and more, even though they are the overseers of their slave labor. In this way, youth are often brainwashed into thinking that their oppressors are the most trustworthy figures in their lives.

There are two ways to break obedience training. The first is to read *The Dictator's Handbook* by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith, which is mentioned at the start of all my works. The book goes into great detail about the motives for the horrible things that people with power do and provides the best foundation for a healthy distrust of powerful people. This is important for youth liberation because youth have many powerful people in their lives that they cannot afford to trust. Parent-slavers, teachers, school principals, the police officers who bring back runaways, and the court officials (guardian ad litem, court visitors, and judges) who trade children like playing cards from person to person all have a reputation for being trustworthy (because of trustwashing) but are all completely untrustworthy and many times dangerous. *The 48 Laws of Power* by Robert Greene is good for breaking obedience training too, but it should be taken with a mountain-sized grain

of salt so that it doesn't go to your head. It's important for youth to know that if they choose to read either or both of these two books as their method of breaking obedience training, they will need to reread them when they get to the end, and again, and so on. These books are important and provide all the facts that youth need to know about people in power, but the effects of obedience training are not so simply broken. If you don't engage in disobedience or don't reread the books, obedience training will reassert itself over a couple of years (assuming that you're still a youth and forced to obey your parents and teachers; otherwise, this doesn't apply).

The other way to break obedience training is to actively engage in disobedience. This is tricky because getting caught disobeying brings punishment, whether it's from the overseers we call teachers, the slavers we call parents, or the career criminals we call court officials. Skipping school, only a few times at first but then more and more, can free you from the mindless trust for school staff. Disobeying parents in small ways, such as chewing with your mouth open, sneaking out after dark, or hanging out with friends in the park when your parents only said that "you couldn't invite them over," can break you out of the mindless belief that parents are all-good, all-powerful, and all-seeing.

Other ideas for disobedience are cursing in a foreign language, going to school in the morning and then silently ditching after lunch, meeting with your friends after school to play games and eat snacks for "homework club," walking to the next town over (or anywhere else you're not supposed to go) without a chaperone, altering your clothes to better suit your style, getting a crazy haircut from your barber, being absent from the room whenever your parents want you to do something, gaming on your computer after you told your parents you were going to do homework, and pulling an all-nighter. The more you disobey, the more you'll learn about what you believe in and the more you'll figure out who you want to be. You'll also learn a great deal about your parents and who they really are. One of the first things that disobedient kids learn is that parents can be vicious if they catch disobedience, but they are far from all knowing. An enterprising kid who knows her parents well can get away with a ton of disobedience while appearing to be a "well-behaved" kid.

Slavery is tough. You might not want to be too harsh on the teacher's pet, the nerd, or the kid who always follows the rules; chances are they have been so thoroughly trustwashed that the only thing they've ever known is obedience. If you introduce them to either of the two books mentioned above, it might open their eyes and earn you a lifelong friend.